Indira Gandhi National Open University
Core Course in M.A. Sociology
MSO-002: Research Methodologies and Methods
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)

Programme Code : MSO
Course Code : MSO-002
Assignment Code: MSO-002/AST/TMA/2021-22

Maximum Marks : 100
Weightage : 30%

Answer questions from both the sections.

Marks

Section –A

Answer any ***two*** of the following questions

1.	What is empiricism? Discuss with reference to the contribution of David Hume.	25
2.	What is ethnography? In what way does it differ from survey research?	25
3.	Critically examine the nature and scope of comparative method in social science research.	25
4.	Discuss the participatory approach to social research.	25
5.	Explain the historical method of research in social sciences.	25

Section-B

Write a research report on any ***one*** of the following topics in about 3000 words.

1.	Role of the State in a pandemic situation.	50
2.	Role of youth in contemporary Indian society.	50
3.	Significance of online education in India.	50

You can write this report based either on review of literature, or data collected from the primary sources.
For review of literature you are to select either two books or four research articles published recently on the selected topic of your choice. Write a review article focusing on the location of the study, methodology followed and the main findings of these studies.
For the primary source you are to collect two case studies and write a report on the selected topic in a comparative framework. While writing the report spell out clearly the objectives and the problems of the study and

- problematise the issue within the existing/available literature,
- elaborate your observations, finding and conclusion coherently, and
- make proper referencing at the end.

ASSIGNMENT SOLUTIONS SAMPLE(2021-2022)

MSO-02

Research Methodologies and Methods

Disclaimer/Special Note: These are just the sample of the Answers /Solu tions to some of the Questions given in the Assignments. These Sample Answers/Solu tions are prepared by Private Teacher/Tutors/Authors for the help and guidance of the student to get an idea of how he/she can answer the Questions given the Assignments. We do not claim 100% accuracy of these sample answers as these are based on the knowledge and capability of Private Teacher/Tutor. Sample answers may be seen as the Guide/Help for the reference to prepare the answers of the Questions given in the assignment. As these solutions and answers are prepared by the private Teacher/Tutor so the chances of error or mistake cannot be denied. Any Omission or Error is highly regretted though every care has been taken while preparing these Sample Answers /Solu tions. Please consult your own Teacher /Tutor before you prepare a Particular Answer and for up-to-date and exact information, data and so luti on. Student should must read and refer the official study material provided by the university.

Section-A

Answer any *two* of the following questions

Q. 4. Discuss the participatory approach to social research.

Ans. Delineation of Key Features: Let us now discuss the features of participatory research methodology: Participatory approach is receptive and definite on attachment and partisanship along with marginal groups whose observations are marginalized in social scie nces . Before proceeding further towards the traditional research meth odology, first we should have some knowledge of what all includes in the concept of participation. This expression has obtained several explanations and connotations in distinctive perspectives. Participation research has mainly three dimensions:

Participation demands the contribution ofall persons related with decision-making about how a certain thing has to be prepared.

Participation entails mass contribution to the labour for expansion. This means the interest of all people who were influenced by the execution of decree.

- All individuals who were drawn in the above mentioned points share product of the efforts put in by them for the development.

This information about participation talks about the whole socio-economic system of change and growth. There is no doubt that there is a broad gap in between the macro level goals of society and what really happens in the name of participation. The involvement of human beings in implementation and planning of a programme is called as community participation. If community is not a part of decision-making process and in other activities then we cannot call it participation. Simply accepting and the hiring unpaid labour is the most horrible form of exploitation. So

students are expected to squabble for fuller participation of community. This kind of participation is purely hypothetical. These kinds of ideas are put forward by the educators of adult learners. Participation has central importance for participants and researcher is also considered as a participant. Community participation makes sure assimilation of aboriginal knowledge and proficiency in development of plans. This brings about independence from the purported experts. Participatory research aims to result in improvement in the conditions oflivelihood of the people, who are a part of the research.

Participatory research condemns conventional research for its inattentiveness to the problems of grassroots people. On the contrary conventional research criticizes participatory research for lack of scientific values. Participatory research doesn't consider itself as the only substitute of conventional research.

The next question raises in the mind of the students now is how to design research to promote increased participation. Participatory research presumes that through this method, research by its own becomes a means for participatory development. Practitioners of participatory research promote and are appreciate this method as it helps them understand social identity, to develop into mindful of their individual relationship with other social relationships influence them.

While promoting participatory research in social sciences, we have to agree to the fact that structuring participatory practice and establishments is a self-motivated and steadily evolving process in the reply of the social needs and ethics and existing abilities and means to fulfil them. Participatory method cannot be implemented in a day or two. It takes time to grow with experience and practice about the working of the method.

Q. 5. Explain the historical method of research in social sciences.

Ans. Historical Method: The historical method comprises the techniques and guidelines by which use primary sources and other evidence to research and then to write history in form of accounts of the past. The question of the nature, and indeed the possibility, of sound historical method is raised in the philosophy of history, as a question of epistemology.

The historical method comprises the techniques and guidelines by which historians use historical sources and other evidence to research and then to write history. There are various history guidelines commonly used by historians in their work, under the headings of external criticism , internal criticism , and synthesis. This includes higher criticism and textual criticism. Though items may vary depending on the subject matter and researcher, the following concepts are usually part of most formal historical research:

- Identification of origin date
- Evidence oflocalization
- Recognition of authorship
- Analysis of data
- Identification of integrity
- Attribution of credibility

The process of learning and understanding the background and growth of a chosen field of study or profession can offer insight into organizational culture, current trends, and future possibilities. The historical method of research applies to all fields of study because it encompasses their : origins, growth, theories , personalities, crisis, etc . both quantitative and qualitative method can be used in the collection of historical information.

There are a variety of places to obtain historical information. Primary Sources are the most sought after in historical research. Primary resources are first hand accounts of information. "Finding and assessing primary historical data is an exercise in detective work. It involves logic, intu ition, persistence, and common sense. Some examples of primary documents are: personal diaries, eyewitness accounts of events, and oral histories. "Secondary sources of information are records or accounts prepared by someone other than the person, or persons, who participated in or observed an even t." Secondary resources can be very useful in giving a researcher a grasp on a subject and may provided extensive bibliographic information for delving further into a research topic.

Historical Method: Sometimes we gain the best knowledge by looking into the past rather than into the future. Historical research attempts to do just that. Through a detailed analysis of historical data, we can determine , perhaps to a lesser extent, cause and effect relationships. We can also help prevent the present day teachers , managers , and other users of research from making the same mistakes that were made in the past.

Historical research can also mean gathering data from situations that have already occurred and performing statistical analysis on this data just as we would in a traditional experiment. Historical research relies on data from the past; there is no way to manipulate it. Studying the grades of older students, for example, and younger students may provide some insight into the differences between these two groups, but manipulating the work experience is impossible. Therefore, historical research can often lead to present day experiments that attempt to further explore what has occurred in the past.

Section-B

Write a research report on any *one* of the following topics in about 3000 words.

Q. 3. Significance of online education in India.

You can write this report based either on review of literature, or data collected from the primary sources .

For review of literature you are to select either two books or four research articles published recently on the selected topic of your choice. Write a review article focusing on the location of the study, methodology followed and the main findings of these studies.

For the primary source you are to collect two case studies and write a report on the selected topic in a comparative framework. While writing the report spell out clearly the objectives and the problems of the study and

- **problematise the issue within the existing/available literature,**
- **elaborate your observations, finding and conclusion coherently, and**
- **make proper referencing at the end.**

Ans. Online education is a type of education that is delivered and administered using the internet. Online education can be divided into numerous categorie s depending on the amount of online learning included in the course, ranging from offline , face-to-face learning to unified learning to complete online courses. It is a flexible instructional delivery system that consists of any kind of education via the internet. Online education gives educators a prospect to reach students who may not be competent to enrol in a traditional classroom course and supports students who require to work on their schedule and at their own pace.

The magnitude of distance learning and online degrees in most disciplines is enormous and increasing rapidly. Schools and institutions that tender online learning are also growing in number. Students pursuing degrees via the online approach must be discerning to ensure that their coursework is done through an appreciated and well-recognized institution.

Online education has become a feasible and exciting method for instructional deliverance in the global business society that runs on a 24/7 schedule because it provides students with enormous flexibility. With the increased ease of use of the Internet and computer technology, now-a-days, students can access information anytime and anyplace that would usually be obtainable only through a traditional classroom. Moreover, studies have shown that students learn just as efficiently in an online classroom as in the conventional classroom.

Below are the importance of Online Education.

- Online education facilitates the teacher and the student to set their learning pace. There is the added flexibility of setting a schedule that fits everyone's list of items.
- As a result, using an online educational platform permits a better balance of work and studies, so there's no need to give anything up in any sphere of life.
- The most delicate part of online education is that the students in India are passionate about this concept. They want to demonstrate their skills and capabilities while learning in an ideal and interactive environment.
- Online education has taken away the geographical and financial obstructions for getting a quality education.
- Online Education offers professionals the flexibility to recover and update their skill set while functioning concurrently. This helps them in staying updated about the presented advancements and technologies .
- Online education serves to be a time-saving and cost-effective route for any career.

The quality of education and, in general , the learning experience has seen a marvellous development with Online Education. A majority of students in India desire to make a career in the IT and business domain . The most significant aspect of online education is - no restrictions.

Considering India's talent and the populace, Distance Education has a very hopeful future, and the students' expectations are relatively high. Moreover, many business competitors have foreseen this growing industry's scope and are planning to enter the online education sphere. Summing it up, online education is all set to renovate the education scenario in India at this stage.

In response to the current situation, educators have been instrumental in finding new ways to ensure learning continues for children by developing online and offline learning materials; learning about the working of video conferencing tools to be able to meet students regularly and conducting mental & social well-being sessions during the start of the school day and at closure.

Virtual school might be relatively a new concept in India, but we are experiencing a new trend of the blended learning model gaining popu larity. We have to acknowledge that virtual school is not just about taking a lesson through a video conferencing tool; it involves more than that. It involves a paradigm shift in pedagogy through an understanding of the blended learning model by teachers , parents and students. The balance of online and offline tasks is a critical aspect to consider while designing the timetable and lesson plan. This model helps learning to continue beyond the four walls of the classroom, allows students' choice and flexibility to learn at their pace, creates

more opportunities for collaborative tasks alongwith providing opportunities to rethink the mode of assessments & feedback. Virtual education has opened up possibilities ofrethinking the way we are doing teaching & learning. The use of educational technology tools can begin to transform the classroom, and most of it depends on the creative agency of the teacher.

We also need to acknowledge that the transition to virtual learning can be challenging for all stakeholders. Parents will have to think differently about how to equip their children in the virtual learning space; how to create structures and routines that allow their children to be successful; and how to support their learning journey while considering the emotional well-being as well. Schools like hospitals are caregivers and we, as a school will fall back on the school framework of Relevance, Relationship and Rigour to support parents in this process of creating meaningful engagement with their children.

Some of the benefits of Online education are as follows:

Affordable: Although the fee for the course may remain the same, students get to cut down on extra fees they pay for classrooms, amen ities , hostels , meals , etc . Another cost students save via online Education is textbooks , the availability of cheaper digital books cuts down hefty expenditure on textbooks. Also, many universities and colleges provide distance learning scholarships which make the fee very cheap. Many programs offer free Education too.

Plethora of Choices: In a space as vast and wide as the internet, there are infinite skills and subjects to teach and learn. A growing number of universities and higher education schools are offering online versions of their programs for various levels and disciplines. From music composition to quantum physics, there are options for every type of student. Studying your program online is also a great option for getting an official certificate, diploma , or degree without physically setting foot on a university campus.

Take an example ofa student who wishes to pursue Biomedical Engineering in Karnataka , and there are only 7 colleges in the entire state that offer this course. If the student fails to pursue the course due to the proximity to the college, Online Education comes in handy. Thus, irrespective of the region, one can take up distance learning for their desired course on its non-availability in the nearby colleges.

If one doesn't get the course they desire on campus; it is available on distance learning. The options of courses and skills one gets to select from are vast on Online Education. One could also choose the kind of teacher they'd want them to teach. This makes online Education personalized. Also, students can gain knowledge about every sphere of life.

Widely Accepted: The fast-growing technology has widely popularized Online Education. Many online learning platforms are emerging everyday, intending to share knowledge and skills with many students. Top universities and colleges have also made their on-campus courses accessible to online classes.

Even graduates are getting certified in new skills and courses of the latest trends. So they take up online learning of these skills to keep up with the latest developments. These online certifications are also accepted in companies, and online graduates get good jobs based on their studies.

Self-paced Learning: "All fingers are not the same" often one would have heard the expression; similarly, all students cannot be generalized, and each has a pace to pick things up. In an offline classroom where all students are taught simultaneously, everyone might not receive them at that pace- some faster, some slower.

Online Education enables students to learn topics at their own pace and comfort. Unlike traditional lear ning, it doesn't dictate students to adjust to their pace but, in turn, adjusts to the students'.

Comfortable: Online education enables you to study or teach from anywhere in the world. This means there 's no need to commute from one place to another, or follow a rigid schedule. On top of that, not only do you save time, but you also save money, which can be spent on other priorities. The virtual classroom is also available anywhere there's an internet connection, and a good way to take advantage ofthis is to travel. For example, if you're studying abroad and want to get a job, online education is a great choice. There's no reason to give up on working or studying while exploring new and exotic places.

Students can learn sitting at home, amidst the nature of their favourite places, and learn unlike in traditional learning where they are bound to sit amidst four classroom walls . When students choose their surroundin gs, it makes them comfortable and easier to focus on the topics they're learning without distractions or complaints.

No Peer Pressure: Like in schools, where the teachers and other students pressurize to score well, online Education helps students focus on themselves and do better. When the competition isn't very stiff and healthy, students can concentrate more and make the most out of their study time.

Saves Travel Time and Cost: Many students live at places far from their colleges and must travel hours to and fro from the college. In online Education, one can utilize this time for studying as the college is brought to you online. Thousands of rupees are spent on commuting, and online Education can save that.

Unlike in-person education meth ods, online education tends to be more affordable. There's also often a wide range of payment options let you pay in installments or per class. This allows for better budget management. Many of you may also be subject to discounts or scholarships, so the price is rarely high. You can also save money from the commute and class materials, which are often available for free. In other words, the monetary investment is less, but the results can be better than other options.

More Interaction: Some colleges have over 80 students placed in a classroom; this makes it very difficult for the teachers to not focus on every student 's learning due to the large number and limited time . In online Education, the teacher focuses on the student's progress better, and the child can clear their doughnuts any time of the day. This increases the student-teacher interaction better.

Flexibility: In traditional colleges, where class hours are fixed, and students are strictly asked to follow a tight schedule, sometimes it becomes difficult for both the student and teacher to adhere to them. The recorded classes found in online Education solve this problem. A student can watch the recorded lecture anytime and on repeat until the concept is very well understood.

Online education enables the teacher and the student to set their own learning pace, and there's the added flexibility of setting a schedule that fits everyone's agenda. As a resu lt, using an online educational platform allows for a better balance of work and st udies , so there's no need to give anything up. Studying online teaches you vital time management skills, which makes finding a good work-study balance easier. Having a common agenda between the student and teacher can also prompt both parties to accept new responsibilities and have more autonomy.

It allows for a customized learning experience .

We' ve mentioned before how flexibility can help you to set your own study pace. But online education is also flexible for each student's individual requirements and level of ability.

Online classes tend to be smaller than conventional class size. Most of the time, online learning platforms only allow one student at a time , and in almost all cases, this allows for greater interaction and more feedback between you and your tutor.

There's often access to very diverse material such as videos, photos, and eBooks online as well, and tutors can also integrate other formats like forums or discussions to improve their lessons. And this extra content is available at any moment from anywhere, which will offer you a more dynamic andtailor-made education.

Helped in the Pandemic Situation: While Covid-19 spread throughout the Globe and people shut themselves inside their homes, the online education platform served all the students to receive proper education and not miss their classes. Most schools and colleges opted for a virtual platform, connected with their students, and delivered their lessons. As most governments ordered the shutdown of all the institutions, this became the only way to continue education while staying in the safe zone. As one of the most overpopulated countries, India always had a high risk of contaminat ion, so such a smart step helped enormously to keep down the Covid-19 situation under control.

So for all these reasons, the importance of online education in India cannot be neglected .Moreover, both the private and government sectors should try their best to improve online learning in India as much as they possibly can.

Connects students and teachers internationally: Just like Nord Anglia Education's **Global Campus,** an advantage of online learning is it can connect students and teachers around the world. With traditional education, location dictates which classes you could sign up for. This isn't the case with online learning. You can sign up for classes all over the world, providing a more in-depth understanding of the global industry and helping children build their network and develop an international mindset. Gaining different perspectives and learning about different cultures also aids children's thinking skills. This highlights the importance of online learning for students because it can open the door to new opportunities and help them develop skills that will serve them well in their future careers.

Allows children to create their own learning environment: Children learn better and feel more comfortable learning in an environment of their choosing. This isn't always possible in a classroom but is one of the key advantages of online learning. As a student or a parent, you understand where you work best, whether it's in the library, at home or anywhere else. Being able to take a laptop or tablet into your ideal working environment helps children maximise their potential and gain the most from their education. Everyone works differently and some students may prefer the classroom, but for those that don't, this flexibility can have a positive impact on how they absorb information and help them improve their grades.

Provides students with more control over their learning: Traditional learning methods allow the teacher to decide how they will convey information to their students, but online learning provides more flexibility and gives children control over their education. We all learn differently- some of us prefer quiet study, others like interactive tasks and being challenged under pressure. While there are tasks online , one of the advantages is that it gives students time to teach themselves concepts differently. Some students prefer to learn slowly and explore different learning methods, helping them fully retain information. Once they feel prepared, they can then take online tests or ask their parents to challenge them on what they have learnt.

This article should help you understand the importance of online learning to students and teachers, and whether an online learning experience would be beneficial for your child. If you're considering a virtual education, you can learn more about the experience we provide through Nord Anglia schools on our virtual schools page.

Improve Technical Skills: Online learning also improves the technical skills of students. The most of the online courses need the development of new computer skills because of this ; students can learn to handle different learning management systems and programs.

Other Benefits of Online Education

1. As students' progress through classes, they seek more autonomy and intellectual freedom. Online learning can help them pursue highly personalised learning programs, possibly even college-level courses. These combined with hands-on exercises , real-world exploration, and thorough assessments can be highly beneficial to their learning progress.

2. By trying out introductory topics from different fields, it allows the students to explore their options before committing to any specialisa tion. Online learning techniques make these students become more independent lea rners.

3. Since online learning provides greater control to users through the use of minimal infrastructure, the students can personalise their learning. This enables students to take up new courses and learn almost from anywhere and anytime.

4. Everyone has a different and unique learning pace matched by delivery of online learning. Online learners benefit from flexible learning schedules.

5. Online learning offers an enhanced discussion element, often in a forum for discussion board.

6. With an estimated 93% of communication being non-verbal , online learners do not have to worry about body language interfering with their message . Online education eliminates physical judgments that can cloud rational discussion.

7. At traditional schools, talking to a teacher after class can be challenging. This is not the case in an online learning environment.

8. Online learning makes parent-teacher collaboration positive and transparent.

9. Online systems permit deep analytical summaries of a students' progress. This helps in creating a personalised learning journey for each student.

The benefits of online education can be reaped by various means as students can get enrolled in numerous institutions via online methods and learn any online course.

Below are a few ways to learn through online education:

1. e-Books help in the current assessment of the resources
2. Journals help in giving valuable information
3. Videos help in gaining knowledge
4. Recorded lectures to refer to at any point in time of the day
5. Quizzes to access the experience gained
6. Discussion forums to hear everyone 's opinions and views
7. Live Q&A sessions for detailed understanding
8. Online engagement by group learning
9. Tests are conducted to access and give feedback
10. Making e-learning content mobile by providing an abundance of resources

Online education apps help students learn from anywhere, whether they are at home or somewhere outdoors.

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